

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

FDRE-00 HEW-06 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-07 IO-13

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /088 W

----- 060485

O 171530Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0530

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IT US

SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT: FRIULI EARTHQUAKE

1. DESPITE THE SEVERITY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 AND 15 TREMORS, THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE LOSS OF LIFE AND FEW INJURIES, BECAUSE MOST OF INHABITANTS WERE LIVING IN TENTS. PHYSICAL DAMAGE HAS SPREAD BEYOND THE ORIGINAL DEVASTATED AREA, HOWEVER, BUT THE FULL EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IS STILL UNKNOWN. SOME SECONDARY ROADS ARE CLOSED AND THERE HAS BEEN DAMAGE TO SEVERAL BRIDGES. THE VOLUNTARY EVACUATION OF THE AGED, INFIRM AND THE YOUNG CONTINUES AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 15,000 PEOPLE WILL HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE SUMMER RESORTS OF GRADO AND LIGNANO BY THE WEEKEND. MORE WILL BE EVACUATED.

2. GOI IS PAYING HOTELIERS AND APARTMENT OWNERS RENT FOR AS LONG AS THE REFUGEES REMAIN AND IS DISTRIBUTING CHITS FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD. MILITARY BUSES ARE BEING USED TO TRANSPORT PEOPLE BACK AND FORTH (THOSE WHO HAVE JOBS IN STRICKEN AREA) AND PRIVATE BUSES HAVE ALSO BEEN REQUISITIONED WHERE NECESSARY. PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR SCHOOLING, USING EXISTING FACILITIES IN THE RESORT TOWNS WHEREVER POSSIBLE WITH CLASSES TO BE HELD IN THREE SHIFTS DAILY. OFFICIALS ARE ALSO CONSIDERING INSTALLATION

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OF PREFAB CLASSROOMS IN LIGNANO BECAUSE THERE MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT

SPACE IN THE EXISTING SCHOOLS.

3. OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF THE HOMELESS ARE STILL SOMEWHAT VAGUE. THE BEST GUESS IS THAT FIFTEEN THOUSAND PERSONS WERE ADDED TO THE FORTY THOUSAND PREVIOUSLY IN NEED OF SHELTER. GOI COMMISSIONAR ZAMBERLETTI HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO FORCE PEOPLE TO GO TO THE RESORT AREAS. HOWEVER, NO OFFERS OF TENTS OR TRAILERS ARE BEING MADE AS AN ALTERNATIVETO RELOCATION. MEANWHILE OFFICIALS HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. HAVE 100-200 TENTS AVAILABLE IN CASE THEY ARE NEEDED AFTER ALL PERSONS WILLING TO MOVE HAVE GONE. EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO SECURE AS MANY SMALL TRAILERS AS POSSIBLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO INDIVIDUALS, SUCH AS DAIRY FARMERS, WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE. THE FEELING AMONG REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OFFICIALS IS THAT MOST OF THE HOMELESS WILL SPEND THE WINTER IN THE RESORTS. SOME WILL MOVE BACK INTO THE AREA AS SOON AS THE PRE-FABS ARE COMPLETED, BUT MANY WILL PREFER TO STAY IN THE SAFER COASTAL AREA AT LEAST UNTIL SPRING.

4. AS FOR RECONSTRUCTION, A NEW GEOLOGICAL AND ENGINEERING SURVEY WILL APPARENTLY BE NEEDED FOR THE ENTIRE ZONE. THIS WILL PROBABLY DELAY THE PROVISION OF PRE-FABS, BUT INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT MOST PRE-FABS UNDER CONSTRUCTION WERE WELL SITUATED AND ESCAPED DAMAGE.

5. THE GREATEST ENEMY NOW IS FEAR. THE SLIGHTEST TREMOR DRIVES PEOPLE (EVEN IN TRIESTE AND VENICE) INTO THE STREETS. CLOSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE ZONE (UDINE AND PORDENONE) FEW GO TO WORK AND MANY SPEND THE NIGHT IN THEIR CARS OR IN TENTS PITCHED CLOSE TO THEIR HOMES. OFFICES LOCATED ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF BUILDINGS HAVE HAD TO CLOSE OR ELSE CURTAIL DRASTICALLY THEIR SERVICES BECAUSE EMPLOYEES REFUSE TO LEAVE THE GROUND FLOOR. THE RAILROAD LINE NORTH OF UDINE IS STILL BLOCKED IN SEVERAL PLACES BECAUSE WORKERS HAVE FLED THE AREA, AND TRAINS WILL HAVE TO BE RE-ROUTED THROUGH YUGOSLAVIA.

6. RANKING MEMBER OF REGIONAL ASSEMBLY NOTED TO PRINCIPAL OFFICER TODAY THAT DELAY IN PUTTING UP PRE-FABS STEMMED FROM EARLY RETORICAL SLOGAN "FROM TENTS TO HOUSES". ALL SUCH THINKING IS GONE AND THE IMMEDIATE EFFORTS AND RESOURCES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT ALL ARE IN SOME SORT OF HOUSING BEFORE WINTER. THE POLITICAL OBJECTIVE IS TO HEAD OFF ANY WIDE-SPREAD DIASPORA OF THE FRIULI IN THE NEAR TERM WHICH WOULD LEAD TO PERMANENT EMIGRATION. FOR THE LONGER TERM, THERE SEEMS TO BE A REALISTIC BUT PERHAPS BELATED APPRECIATION OF THE TIME AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO REBUILD THE FRIULI. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI HAS DECLARED THAT "THE RECONSTRUCTION

PLAN FOR THE FRIULI MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH A MINIMUM OF OBJECTIVITY".

7. PRINCIPAL OFFICER HAS AN APPOINTMENT LATE TODAY WITH ZAMBERLETTI WHO SHOULD BE IN POSITION FOLLOWING HIS MEETING IN ROME YESTERDAY TO GIVE US SOME INDICATION OF GOI DECISIONS, INTENTIONS, NEEDS, ETC. MOEN

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